

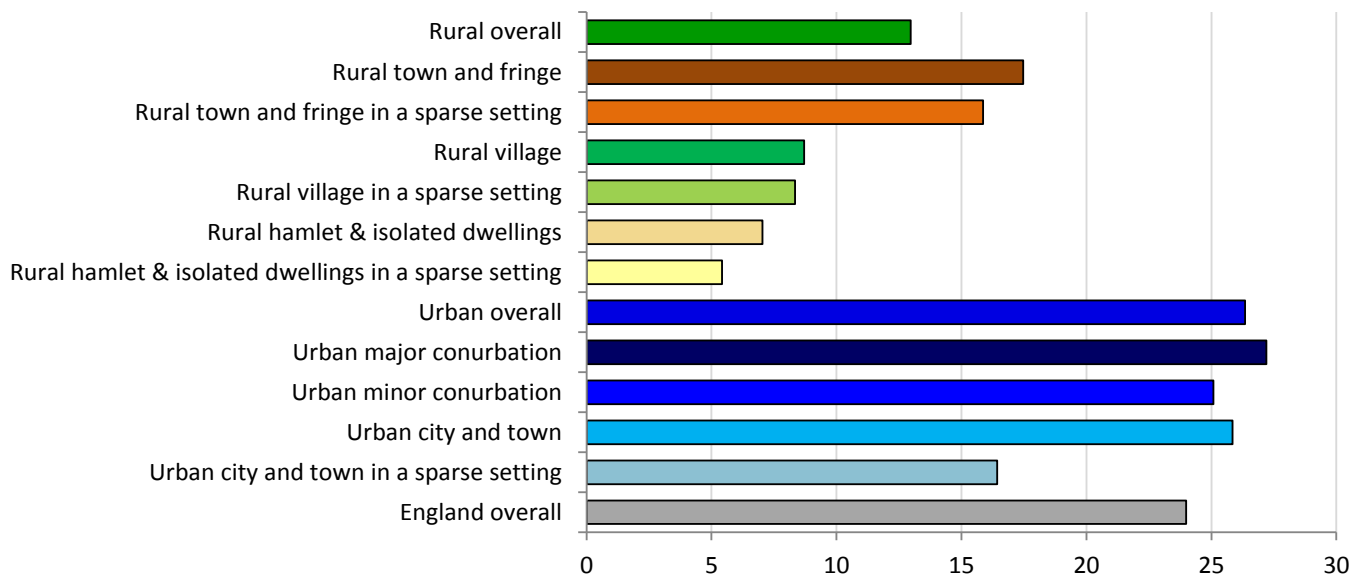
# Broadband

## Revision note:

The 2014 Broadband speed data have been reissued as a result of a minor revision to the analysis. The results exclude data where there are less than 4 premises for an individual postcode and where no speed was recorded. These records account for 14% of the England postcode data. The average speed results were unaffected in all cases except for rural town and fringe in a sparse setting and rural villages, where the average speeds increased by 1Mbit/s compared with the previously reported figures.

## Broadband Speed

**Average Broadband Speed (Mbit/s) where broadband and speed information are available, by rural urban classification in England, 2014 (revised figures)**



- Where broadband and speed information are available, the average broadband speeds in the majority of *rural* area types are lower than speeds in *urban* areas. In 2014 the average broadband speed in *rural hamlets & isolated dwellings in a sparse setting* was 5 Mbit/s compared with 27 Mbit/s in *major urban conurbations*.
- Speeds vary because it is harder for network operators to recoup the fixed costs necessary for upgrading exchanges and cabinets in rural areas, where there are lower population densities, and therefore fewer end subscribers.

**Average broadband speed where broadband and speed information are available, by rural urban classification in England, 2014 (revised figures)**

	Mbit/s
<b>Rural overall</b>	13
Rural town and fringe	17
Rural town and fringe in a sparse setting	16
Rural village	9
Rural village in a sparse setting	8
Rural hamlet & isolated dwellings	7
Rural hamlet & isolated dwellings in a sparse setting	5
<b>Urban overall</b>	26
Urban major conurbation	27
Urban minor conurbation	25
Urban city and town	26
Urban city and town in a sparse setting	16
<b>England overall</b>	24

- The average broadband speed for England in 2014 was 24 Mbit/s.
- Average rural speeds are more likely to be slower than those in urban areas because:
  - There is less superfast broadband in rural areas. We expect this to change as BDUK's rural broadband programme progresses; and
  - Rural premises are typically further away from cabinets, with long copper line connections, leading to slower performance.
- For a household with the average rural speed of 13 Mbit/s downloading a movie (via On Demand) would take 8 minutes and 54 seconds, while for a household with the average urban speed of 26 Mbit/s it would take 4 minutes and 27 seconds (assuming a movie size of 858MB).
- The availability of broadband in rural areas is increasingly important for how businesses operate and hence for economic development, in addition to access to services and wider social activities.

Ofcom average speed data is provided by the main broadband providers and, due to the completeness of the older datasets, the granular level data is not comparable with data from previous years.

Figures are based on OFCOM postcode level data on average speeds for fixed broadband weighted by the number of premises. Data exclude those postcodes for which there is no average speed data available or where there are fewer than four premises per postcode to protect customer privacy. In England this relates to 14% of all postcodes, the vast majority being where there are fewer than four premises per postcode

The 2014 area classifications are based on the latest RUC11, and as such, are not directly comparable with previous RUC01 based analysis.

Source: OFCOM, [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk)

Ofcom Infrastructure Report, 2014 ([infrastructure-2014](#)).

Department for Culture, Media and Sport publish monthly Broadband Performance Indicators, which are available online: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/broadband-performance-indicators](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/broadband-performance-indicators)

They show the number of premises covered per £million of broadband delivery programme expenditure.

The Government's £780m Superfast Broadband Programme has enabled access to standard broadband for all and will ensure 95% of UK premises can access superfast broadband by the end of 2017.

Innovative solutions are being tested through a series of pilot projects to explore how to extend superfast broadband into the final 5% hard to reach areas.